

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to the isolation and identification of a short integuments protein and the nucleic acid which encodes such protein. The invention also relates to an expression vector containing the encoding nucleic acid and methods whereby plant fertility, fecundity and flowering time are increased or decreased by transformation of plants with that nucleic acid or variants thereof. The present invention also relates to transgenic cells, plants, and seeds containing the short integuments gene of the present invention.